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Crawford's

JULY REPORT

... For ...

1899.



WHILE THE winter was unusually severe, and the cold weather continued very late, plants came out in good condition, and were in bloom quite early. On account of rainy weather during the blooming season, or perhaps the absence of insects, many blossoms were not properly pollenized, and the fruit was imperfect. Bi-sexual varieties were no better in this respect than pistillates.

The soil here is a sandy loam, and all varieties were grown in matted rows, for plants rather than for fruit. None had more than an ordinary chance, and hardly that.

Our first ripe berries were picked on the 24th of May. These were the Young's Early Sunrise. The Mayflower and Earliest followed immediately. Indeed I am unable to tell which of the three would yield the first ripe berries with the same chance. All gave a good yield of medium-sized berries, quite similar in size and appearance. The Earliest is rather the best in quality, while the Mayflower holds out in size the best of the three, and would be my choice. All three are desirable, as they will give two or three good pickings before larger and more showy sorts are ripe. They would be profitable for market even if picked but three times, as they bring more than large varieties do a week later.

The first large and fine berries to ripen were the Salem, Senator Dunlap and Miller's No. 1. (I had no Marshall). The Salem came from near Boston, and was one of the prize-takers at the great strawberry show held there. It is a fine, healthy grower, and a great yielder. The fruit is large, roundish, dark glossy red and of excellent quality.

MILLER'S No. 1 is the best of a large number of the finest seedlings I ever saw. It is from central Ohio, and has made a great record for productiveness and large size. It is deep red all through and of rich, sprightly flavor. It ripens with the Marshall, and is a better bearer, but hardly equal to that variety in size and shape.

The above were closely followed by the Jerry Rusk, Sample, Vories, Leo, Emperor and Nick Ohmer.

THE JERRY RUSK was originated by Mr. Ran Beuoy, of Matthews, Ind. It is one of the most productive large berries in cultivation. An experienced grower who raises this variety for market, told me that it is the only one that will surpass the Bubach on his place. It is a healthy, vigorous grower. The fruit is very large, roundish conical, dark glossy red, with red flesh, and a little inclined to ripen unevenly. Quite a number of the berries are of irregular form, but few will object to this, as it is so prolific. The quality is good.

THE SAMPLE is probably all that was claimed for it, but it produced a good many buttons this year. For vigorous growth and great productiveness it will rank high, and perhaps will be at the head of the pistillates. In form, color and quality it is all right,

THE VORIEŞ is just about what it is claimed to be. It is a most vigorous grower, making as many plants as the Warfield. It produces a large crop of medium to large berries, roundish, bright red, with red flesh, and of good, sprightly flavor. Its glossy surface and regular form give it a fine appearance.

THE LEO is a good berry to raise for exhibition, being of immense size, and good shape. With ordinary culture in matted rows, it is not productive, nor is the quality good enough.

THE EMPEROR had a good many imperfect berries this season, which is not its habit. After fruiting it four years I am satisfied that it will become a favorite, although some of the earliest ones are quite irregular in form, but never cockscombed. The plant is a good grower and a great bearer. The fruit is very large, of good form, dark red, and of excellent quality.

THE NICK OHMER seems to have succeeded in all parts of the country. For healthy, luxuriant growth, great size and fine quality, it is remarkable. Unfortunately most of my plants were on poor, sandy soil, and it was not at its best. Within a mile of this place it was in great perfection; and at our strawberry show it was shown by Mr. Sherbondy and was unsurpassed. It was sent out with great confidence, and I am still satisfied that it is an acquisition.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Mr. A.W. Clark, Providence, R.I. "I found the Nick Ohmer all you claimed for it, a *grand, beautiful* berry. I sold first at twenty-five cents per quart. The Sample was not so large as the Nick Ohmer, but productive and showy, bright and even. Clyde was the great standby from first to last, for an all-round berry. Nick Ohmer more fancy and better flavor. I received first prize at berry show for best quality, for best new variety of merit, and second prize for best four quarts, all with Nick Ohmer."

EMPRESS is a little later than the above and continues to bear until very late. Like the Emperor, its first berries are somewhat corrugated, but the bulk of the crop is of good shape. It is remarkable for vigorous growth, great productiveness and good flavor. In quality it is not surpassed by any variety here. It is scarcely as large as the Emperor, but will bear as many quarts.

CHALLENGE.—For size and productiveness this was ahead of all others. The load of fruit seemed wonderful for plants of only ordinary size. From one year's test, I should say that it will average as large as any variety on the place. The color and flavor are all right but some of the berries were corrugated, which, I am informed, is quite unusual.

THE GLADSTONE produced very large fine looking berries, but it was not among the early varieties. This might be on account of high culture and heavy mulching. The plant is strong, healthy and vigorous. I had only three dozen potted plants, and they were grown for plants and I can not report fully before another season.

I was well pleased with the RUBY. Although the plants were very thick on the ground, and in a dry place, it produced a good crop of nice, round, deep red berries. I am satisfied that it is valuable, and has not been overpraised.

THE STAR is a fine variety, but so much like the Sharpless that no one will care to have both.

PATRICK.—This is vigorous grower and a good bearer. The fruit is medium to large, long, conical, and sour. It resembles the Haverland.

THE CARRIE is much like the Haverland and may be an improvement in some respects. Mine were so badly mixed that I destroyed all.

THE DARLING is a good grower and bearer. The fruit is of medium size, roundish conical, and scarlet. Not above the average in quality.

I found the CODBEN QUEEN to be all that was claimed for it. It is a good bearer, roundish conical, of good size, dark red with a smooth glossy surface. The Hall's Favorite grew alongside the Cobden Queen, having the same chance, and it seemed less desirable. It would doubtless do well with a fair chance.

THE IMPROVED PARKER EARLE was on dry sandy soil, and could not bring half its fruit to maturity. Yet it did mature a great amount, and I was astonished at its great productiveness. I think, however, that it and the Parker Earle are one.

THE MORGAN produced a good crop of large, handsome berries of good quality.

THE RIDGEWAY is one of our best berries. It made a good record here, and seemed to succeed generally.

THE MCKINLEY is one of the good varieties. It is a good grower and bearer, and the fruit is fine looking and of excellent quality.

Our STERLING patch was spurious.

THE DOWNING'S BRIDE produced very beautiful fruit, as it always does. It comes as near the Jucunda in appearance as any I have seen. It is not only beautiful, but of good quality and is produced in abundance.

THE LLOYD, BISMARCK, MANWELL and CLYDE all did well considering the season. They have been so well tested, and succeed over such a wide area that there is almost no risk in planting them. There is probably no more reliable variety than the Clyde. I found the Excelsior to be too sour, although it possesses some good traits.

THE MICHIGAN fruited in a small way, and ripened its crop earlier than I expected. It seemed much less desirable than the Hunn, which ripened its first berries two weeks after we commenced to pick for market. It is fine in plant and fruit, and is our best late variety.

KLONDIKE.—This is one of the very desirable varieties. The plant is a strong, healthy grower, and very prolific. Fruit very large, roundish conical, and of regular form. Seeds are but slightly sunken, and the surface is always smooth. The color is attractive, and the flavor superior. It is among the late varieties.

I had on trial over 100 new seedlings that failed to come up to the standard, and no report on them is necessary. In any lot of seedlings one can find a number that excel in some way, but one must be desirable in nearly every way to entitle it to a name. In the originator's hands a new berry is at its best, as a rule. It is apt to be overestimated, and it usually receives better treatment than is given to old varieties. It is entirely useless to introduce a berry because it excels in one or two points, because its defects will receive more attention than it merits.

As a rule, originators are in too great a hurry to name and introduce their productions. It is far better to show one's faith in a new seedling by growing it extensively, and letting its merits become known in that way. There is no need of haste. It will become more valuable each season, if it possesses merit; if it has serious defects, the less said about it the better. It is an excellent plan, when one has a valuable seedling, to send it for trial to some of the experiment stations. They are perfectly reliable, and abundantly competent to give an impartial report.

PRICES OF PLANTS.

I have put off sending out this price list, hoping that rain would come so that I could offer plants with safety. It has been so dry that plants have rooted very little, and the following are the only ones I can offer of the standard sorts. After September 1st, I will furnish those named below at \$1.00 per 100, by express, or \$1.30 by mail.

Excelsior. Michigan, Nick Ohmer, Margaret, Sample, Wm. Belt, Jerry Rusk and Gladstone.

"SENATOR DUNLAP."

It gives me great satisfaction to offer this new strawberry to my customers, for I believe it will bring pleasure and profit to those who grow it. It has been well tested, and has made a good record in every instance. It was originated by Rev. J. R. Reasoner, of Illinois, and is now first offered. It has fruited here and I fail to discover a single fault. It is a berry to grow for either home use or market. My opinion is that the fortunate ones will be those who get a start at the first opportunity. A dozen potted plants set out early in September may be increased to several thousand next season. I present the following testimonials to show the standing of the variety where it is best known. I have many others, but these are sufficient:

URBANA, ILLINOIS, June 17, 1899.

REV. J. R. REASONER,

DEAR SIR:—I have made, during the last two years, close observations upon the strawberry seedling known to you as No. 1 (Senator Dunlap). Last year I became satisfied that it was worthy of a name and of introduction. That conclusion has been more than confirmed this year, and I now consider it an exceedingly valuable variety, and in all probability destined to become one of the very best for home and market purposes.

The plant is all that can be desired in a strawberry, vigorous, healthy, productive, almost rust-proof and apparently well-nigh drought-proof. The fruit is of good size, regular and attractive in form, deep red in color without and within, firm in substance, and excellent in quality. The latter is peculiar to itself. There is comparatively little acidity, and it is possible some people may on this account and upon first test fail to appreciate the superb excellence of the fruit, but feel sure it will be a popular favorite in this respect when it becomes sufficiently tried. The season is among the earliest and it continues productive nearly a month. I congratulate you on producing so promising an addition to the already long list of these attractive fruits.

Very truly yours,

T. J. BURRILL.

Dr. T. J. Burrill is Professor of Botany and Horticulture in the University of Illinois.

URBANA, ILLINOIS, July 22, 1899.

MR. J. R. REASONER, Seymour, Ills.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have carefully studied your No. 1 (Senator Dunlap) strawberry during the past three seasons, and have compared it with eighty-two other varieties grown on the Station grounds, and do not hesitate to say that it has greater merit than any other berry with which I am familiar. The plants are exceedingly vigorous, with clean, healthy foliage which has no tendency to rust. The berries are very large, roundish conical, regular, with a slight neck. In color they are glossy crimson, with the meat firm and solid, deep crimson throughout, and good in quality. It is a wonderfully productive strawberry.

Altogether your No. 1 is the most attractive strawberry I know of, and I predict a promising future for it.

Yours very truly,

J. C. BLAIR, Asst. Professor of Horticulture.

BLUE MOUND, ILLINOIS, June 28, 1899.

MR. J. R. REASONER, Seymour, Ills.

DEAR SIR:—Your "Senator Dunlap" is a remarkable berry. The Warfield, heretofore, has been our very best berry for market, but "Senator Dunlap" combines all the good qualities of the Warfield with the addition of being very much more productive, firmer, better flavored, and more attractive in the boxes; in fact we have never seen it surpassed for elegance and beauty, and we have grown strawberries for twenty-four years. It is large, conical and perfect in shape and blossom; a bright, glossy, deep red, and red throughout, which makes it one of the best for canning purposes. This season with us was very wet during strawberry time and part of our patch ran four days

without being picked. The "Senator Dunlap" came through in good condition, while many of the Warfield were too soft to handle. We have been testing many of the new varieties but have found nothing that will compare with it, we think, as a money maker in the new world; and we are so well pleased with it that we shall plant it exclusively next year. We predict a great future for the "Senator Dunlap," and think you are deserving of much credit for originating a berry of so much promise.

MARTIN MILLER & SONS.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, July 25, 1899.

"We have handled the "Senator Dunlap" strawberry and pronounce it superior in size, firmness, flavor and keeping quality, to any berry we have ever sold.

L. K. HOWSE & Co.

URBANA, ILLINOIS, July 31, 1899.

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the good qualities of your new strawberry "Senator Dunlap." I never had a berry that gave such universal satisfaction; and my customers always wanted more of the same kind. For size, color and flavor it can't be beat, and it is firm and lasts well."

W. H. OWENS.

URBANA, ILLINOIS, July 31, 1899.

"We have handled, very extensively, the strawberry "Senator Dunlap," and find it a variety excelled by none. For firmness, size and flavor we never saw its equal."

F. D. KIRKPATRICK.

Potted plants now ready. Price, \$2.00 per dozen; \$10.00 per 100, by express, not prepaid. Transplanted layers, by mail, same price.

LARGE BERRIES.

The largest berries are usually grown by amateurs on fall-set plants. They sometimes cost more of care and skill than they are worth in the market, but the finest berries are never sent to market. Who ever saw a two-ounce berry in the market? And yet it would require nine such to make a quart. At our strawberry meeting last month, Mr. Sherbondy exhibited the Wm. Belt and Belle three and one-half inches in diameter, but they were cockscombed, and would hardly weigh over two ounces. Mr. Davis, of Massachusetts, has grown the Margaret of good form, and over three inches in diameter. All records have been broken this season, by A. T. Goldsborough, who exhibited a four-ounce berry at the Agricultural Department in Washington. Six berries carried in on June 5th weighed, respectively, 4 ounces, 3.2 ounces, 3.2 ounces, 2.88 ounces, 2.56 ounces, 2.56 ounces. Average weight of each berry 3.06 ounces. The six berries filled a quart box and weighed a total of 18.4 ounces. Circumference of largest berry 10.5 inches. Diameter $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Mr. Goldsborough makes a specialty of foreign varieties, and these six mammoth specimens were grown from plants of an English variety, which he will have for sale in due time. If you take *The Strawberry Culturist*—published at Salisbury, Md.—which every grower should do, you will hear from Mr. Goldsborough occasionally.

The soil that produced these mammoth berries had been used as a cow-yard for twenty years, and was as hard as an asphalt pavement, besides being very rich. It was not stirred or broken up in any way, but was covered to the depth of five inches with woods earth (sandy), and the plants were set about Sept. 10, 1898. The whole surface was covered with lawn clippings, but, of course, the leaves were left exposed. Being sheltered on the north and west with a fence and building, the plants continued to grow until very late. Liquid manure was applied several times during the fall. After growth was stopped in the winter, the crowns were thinned to three to each plant. Early in

April the mulch was pulled back from each plant, and a handful of rich soil was worked into the surface to the depth of half an inch. After blooming, liquid manure was applied twice. The leaves were arranged to shield the fruit from the direct rays of the sun; and when the hot days of May came, cotton cloth was put over the bed to protect it from the noon sun. It was held in place by bent wires which kept it fourteen inches from the ground. As soon as the fruit was set, five or six specimens were selected on each plant, and all the rest removed.

Each grower has his own methods, and some of Mr. Goldsborough's will be considered strange. The hard soil, late planting, thinning the crowns and shading the plants with cloth will be new to many. Much might be said in favor of firm soil, but this is not the place. There is far more in it than appears at first thought. Late planting insures an unchecked growth during the growing season, and this is exceedingly important. Mr. Beaver, who is probably the most successful grower in Ohio, favors rather late planting so as to avoid any check to the growth which is so apt to come in August to early set plants. Thinning the crowns is exactly the same as cutting off superfluous wood from a grapevine. The same method may be adopted with great advantage with peony plants and pieplant. Shading the growing fruit lengthens its season of growth. If one could keep a berry growing all summer before it commenced to ripen, it is plain that it would grow very large.

Since writing the above I have heard of another successful grower who has raised four ounce berry, and a good many that weighed over three ounces each. He carried to the office of the Farm Journal a quart box that was filled to the top with four berries. The variety was the Glen Mary. The name of the grower is Joseph Haywood, and he lives near Philadelphia. The soil is rich, clay loam. Here is his method:

Plants were set in May, in rows six feet apart, and three feet from each other in the row. Soil enriched with stable and hen manure. Beds were elevated to afford good drainage by earth taken from the paths. Runners were allowed to root fifteen inches apart until they occupied a strip three and a half feet wide. All others were cut off as they appeared. Beds received the most careful culture all summer and fall, not a weed being allowed to start. As soon as the ground froze, fully three inches of half rotted stable manure was spread over the beds, and the paths left open to let surplus water pass off readily. In early spring the paths were filled with straw to keep the ground moist, and prevent weed growth. A few of the plants needed help in getting up through the covering, but the most of them made their own way. This deep covering retards the blooming until danger from late frosts is past. If very large specimens are desired, the fruit must be thinned.

At a strawberry show in Kentucky the Clyde was shown so large that five made a quart. Such success can only come when every precaution is taken to supply the wants of the plant. Any injury to roots or leaves, any check for want of food or water, or any exhaustion from producing runners will prevent the best results.

BULBS.

In addition to my strawberry plants, I raise a great many bulbs of the gladiolus, daffodil and tulip. There is something charming about bulbs. After blooming and maturing, the whole strength of the plant is stored up in a very small space, and in such form that it requires no more care than is usually given to potatoes or onions. A whole bed of hyacinths, daffodils or tulips may be hung up in the cellar all summer in a basket or a paper sack. Gladiolus bulbs may be kept through the winter in the same way. The hardy spring flowering bulbs may be left in the ground year after year, and will bloom and multiply with almost no care. It is better, however, to take them up every few years and replant them, lest they crowd each other.

The snowdrop comes first, and begins to bloom in February or March, according to the season. It is immediately followed by the crocus, and then come hyacinths, daffo-

ls, and tulips, in turn, giving a constant succession till the end of May. Before the last June the gladiolus comes into bloom, and continues till stopped by hard frost. Last year our first snowdrops opened in the garden on Feb. 14th, and we were never without flowers again until after hard freezing in November.

It is generally believed that nearly all our bulbs must be imported from Europe, and that the hyacinth especially reaches greater perfection in Holland than anywhere else. The Dutch bulb growers are perfectly willing that we should think so but it is not fact. We can grow excellent bulbs of all kinds here, and do so every year. Twenty-five years ago we imported nearly all our tuberose bulbs, and now we supply most of those sold in Europe. We now export large numbers of gladiolus bulbs, and the demand is increasing. Even the hyacinth is grown in Oregon and Washington with perfect success, and the bulbs have become an article of commerce. The daffodil and tulip succeed here as well as anywhere. One of the foremost of our horticultural writers says, after long experience, that American grown daffodil bulbs are superior to the imported ones. One of the Boston parks uses 100,000 American grown tulip bulbs every season because they are the best obtainable. The Department of Agriculture is encouraging bulb growing in this country, and the time is at hand when we shall be independent in this respect.

THE DAFFODIL.

This is the most charming of all the spring flowering bulbs. In England it is the most popular flower known except the rose. It has many characteristics that recommend it, most of which are its grace and beauty. It is hardy, and may be left in the ground for years. It is less affected by coal smoke and unfavorable weather than most flowers. It blooms very early, and may be had continuously for several weeks. A single flower formed on the plant will keep fresh from ten days to two weeks. The blossoms may be cut when in bud and allowed to open in the house, or shipped to distant points, where they will expand in water. It is the most beautiful and satisfactory of all flowers for window gardening in the winter, is very healthy, and keeps a long time in bloom. It could be treated the same as the hyacinth, and a constant succession of bloom may be enjoyed all through the winter by bringing the pots to the light at proper intervals. The flowers have a pleasant, wholesome fragrance, but are not so rich in odor as to be offensive. The daffodil reaches great perfection in our soil and climate, and American grown bulbs are superior. I have cultivated it with great satisfaction for ten years or more, and have tested many varieties. Those that I offer for sale are among the most desirable, and may be grown in any soil. The following are single trumpet varieties that prove very satisfactory:

EMPEROR.—This is a full trumpet variety, and the largest and finest grown in this country. The Monarch is said to be a little larger but it is worth over fifty dollars a bulb in England. The Emperor is pure yellow throughout, is a magnificent grower and bloomer and produces very large bulbs. Each, 15 cents; dozen, \$1.50; hundred, \$8.00.

EMPRESS.—This is the companion of the Emperor, and resembles that variety in having a very large yellow trumpet, but the perianth is white. It is a strong grower and a great favorite. Each, 15 cents; dozen, \$1.50; hundred, \$8.00.

HORSFIELDI.—This was formerly called "the queen of daffodils." It is so much like the Empress that no one but an expert could detect the difference. It is somewhat more vigorous than the Empress, and its fragrance is different. Each, 10 cents; dozen, \$1.00; hundred, \$5.00.

PRINCEPS.—This is one of the best of the inexpensive varieties, and is a favorite for window gardening. It has a deep yellow trumpet and straw-colored perianth, and is an excellent grower. The flower remains in perfection for ten days after it opens. It is much smaller than the Emperor or Empress. Each, 5 cents; dozen, 40 cents; hundred, \$2.00; thousand, \$15.00.

SIR WATKIN, OR WELSH GIANT. — This is a half-trumpet variety, and far the best of its class. Its flowers are deep yellow, and over three inch in diameter. Each, 15 cents; dozen, \$1.50; hundred, \$8.00.

Single bulbs and dozens by mail; hundreds and thousands by express, not prepaid.

Small bulbs,—too small to bloom the first year,—of Horsfieldi, Princeps and Sir Watkin, by mail at one-fourth the price of blooming bulbs. These will make first-class bulbs in one year, and people who wish to get a fine collection of daffodils with small outlay, can do it in this way by taking one year's time for their growth.

TULIP BULBS.

The bulbs I offer are all of my own growing, and are great value for the price. They are sold only in mixture, and are all of two classes: early and late. The collection contains a large number of varieties, and will be sure to give satisfaction. A few years ago I imported a lot of fine varieties from England, at a cost of over \$20. per 100, and found that most of my own would average as fine. If any other party in this country sells as fine varieties at as low prices I am not aware of it.

First size, 25 cents per dozen, \$1.25 per 100. Second size, 15 cents per dozen, 75 cents per 100. If wanted by mail add one-half cent each for first size, and one-fourth for second size. Very small bulbs, (tulip sets) 25 cents per 100 by mail.

GLADIOLUS BULBS.

I wish that all my customers could see my gladioli. My collection is one of the finest in the world. I know of no other grower in the country who has as large a stock of Groff's Hybrids. These commenced to bloom in June, and will continue until stopped by frost in October. I am now cutting thousands of spikes many of which are sold in this town and in our county seat. The demand is increasing from year to year, and I believe that growing the gladiolus for cut flowers is destined to be a great industry.

I do not offer bulbs under name or color for sale,—except May—but shall be glad to give prices on Groff's Hybrids and Standard Mixture of any size or in any quantity.

BLACKBERRIES.

Some of my customers who purchased root cuttings of Mersereau and Rathbun in the spring, had poor success—mainly on account of planting them too late. If those who failed will let me know how many they lost I will mail more to replace them. I would like to correspond with any one wanting to buy roots in large lots.

WORTH KNOWING.

I have been watching the "*Haymaker*" raspberry for a number of years, having grown it here, and seen it in bearing several times on the grounds of the originator, Mr. A. O. Haymaker, Earlville, O. It is a luxuriant grower, perfectly hardy and healthy, and altogether unequalled for productiveness, as far as I know. The fruit is of large size, purple, and so good that the entire crop is sold near home, and much of it is engaged a year in advance. Send postal to originator and learn all about it. I have none for sale.

M. CRAWFORD,
CUYAHOGA FALLS, O.